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U. S. Department of Energy Awards South Carolina \$440,535 for Six Energy Savings Projects

(Columbia) – U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham has announced that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will provide \$440,535 to the South Carolina Energy Office (SCEO) for six energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The South Carolina Energy Office is a unit of the State Budget and Control Board. Funding is being provided through DOE's State Energy Program Special Projects competitive grants. South Carolina received 22 percent of the 27 awards in the 11-state Southeast region.

"Energy efficiency is an important part of President Bush's National Energy Policy," said Secretary Abraham. "These important projects will greatly help in achieving the energy efficiency goals our administration has set."

Four of the awards for South Carolina were in the Clean Cities category for promotion of alternative fuels; one award was in the Biomass category to promote and provide incentives for biomass in the state; the last award was for the support of the South Carolina Energy Office's (SCEO) Rebuild South Carolina program.

Specific awards are as follows:

Schwan's Home Service Propane Truck Deployment in South Carolina: SCEO received \$37,505 in funding to convert 11 heavy-duty delivery trucks from gasoline fueling to dedicated propane systems. The trucks will displace 302,500 gallons of gasoline and save more than \$40,000 annually on fuel costs.

University of South Carolina Ethanol Infrastructure Installation: SCEO received \$23,030 in funding to install E-85 refueling infrastructure at USC's Columbia campus. USC has 70 flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs) and maintenance trucks that will fuel exclusively on E-85, a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. Operating these vehicles on E-85 will displace 43,000 gallons of gasoline each year.

Alternative Futures: SCEO received \$150,000 in funding for construction of a state-of-the art biofuels storage and distribution facility at United Energy Distributors in Aiken. Biodiesel is a cleaner burning diesel replacement fuel made from natural, renewable sources such as new and used vegetable oil and animal fats. Once completed, this site will hold up to 260,000 gallons of ethanol and biodiesel. Petroleum/motor oil displacement resulting from this project will be approximately one million gallons of gasoline per year.

Clean Cities Coalition Support - Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition: SCEO received \$20,000 in funding for the coordination of the Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition. Funding will enable promotion and building of infrastructure to support increasing use of alternative fuels by state and local governments in a nine-county coalition region.

South Carolina Biomass Market Development Program (SCBMDP): SCEO received \$80,000 to partner with the South Carolina Department of Commerce and others, to help develop biomass-based energy technologies, and expand markets for biomass-based energy products in the state.

Rebuild South Carolina: SCEO received \$130,000 in funding to expand its Rebuild South Carolina program to service and support existing partnerships and to negotiate new partnerships. Rebuild South Carolina provides comprehensive energy efficiency assistance to state and local governments, colleges and universities and K-12 schools.

States, territories and the District of Columbia competed for these DOE awards.

Since 1996, the SCEO has secured \$2,055,184 in DOE Special Projects funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

For more details on these projects, visit the South Carolina Energy Office's website at www.energy.sc.gov. Click on the "News and Notables" link.

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